

tolerance or close to a zero tolerance for alcohol for minors and cannot lower the rate...the level to .08 for adults or for all other individuals is hard for me to understand. It is clear, from the evidence, that, to me anyway, that I doubt if anyone is going to be able to get up on the floor and suggest that impairment does not exist at .08, that that double standard is...is rational or logical. The...in my opinion, the better...best way to approach the problem is to adopt a standard that is possibly in the .04, .05 range and apply it to everybody across the board because I think that would be sending the right message. But, be that as it may, we're dealing here with .08 and it also, again, in this issue much like other issues that we deal with in the Legislature, we're dealing sort of with the public persona or the public that is...that drinking gives to...to day to day life in America. We have those who say that drinking is...and driving is a problem and we spend an inordinate amount of money every year on educating the public about that problem. And then, on the other hand, we have those who argue, well, this too much government in my life, I can't...why doesn't government get off my back, why don't they allow me to make my own decisions about what I'm going to drink and how much I'm going to drink and not. And those two issues clash a lot. There are the so-called do-gooders on one side and the...and the get government off my backers on the other side, and, to a certain degree, that's where this debate sometimes falls. And then you add into that the fact that this...this measure is always very, very heavily lobbied because there is...there is, obviously, a significant financial interest involved in decisions that we make on drinking and setting standards. I fall on the side of, I think, of reflecting what my district has expressed to me over and over again, is that they want tighter laws on drinking and driving. They want an equitable, reasonable standard that applies to all Nebraskans and not a different standard applying to...necessarily to children. They want to send the right message to children that drinking and driving is inappropriate and I think we do that by, in this case, by at least lowering the standard to .08. Neither side of that debate, the do-gooders so-called on one side or get government off my backers on the other side really, I don't think, really get at the problem. I think this is just a...get at the issue, I think this is just basic, good common sense that is reflected to me at least by the numerous people, overwhelming numbers of individuals in my district over the last seven or eight years who have overwhelmingly supported lowering the drinking age and driving...or the drinking and driving to .08.